Corey's Corner

I spent the week of September 12th at the Port Townsend School of Woodworking (ptwoodschool.com,) in Washington State. The class was "Design and Build a Side Table" with Garrett Hack. My wife gave the trip to me as a gift for my 40th Birthday. Port Townsend is a small town, 2 hours drive from Seattle. It is quite beautiful, large rolling hills surrounded by views of the water. The school itself is located on an old Army fort, Fort Worden that is now run as a State Park. The Fort is a destination for campers and hikers and there is much to see, including abandoned batteries where 10 and 12 inch guns were mounted to cover the waters off the coast of the fort.

The school is outfitted with 12 or so good quality workbenches and each comes supplied with a basic kit of hand tools. Most of the schools tools are supplied by Lee Valley, so they are very nice to use. I did bring my own along, but there were a few occasions where I appreciated that a tool I needed was close at hand and worked well. The school is located in an old power plant and I really liked that they had the machines and workbenches in separate rooms. The machines were very good quality and worked well.

The class itself was a lot of fun for me because I was able to play with new ideas. I had previously built the table we were working on in the class Garrett taught here in Milwaukee a few years ago. It is his "splay legged table" and I like the one I own very much. This time I was able to try my hand at making curved, tapered, and yes, still splayed table legs. The challenge was really very fun. I also included a small drawer in the table and will be adding additional details before it's complete, including cockbeads and a small bit of inlay in the top. We were offered the chance to purchase the wood for the table from the school, so the table is made from Western Maple. I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from Garrett again and look forward to his visit in March, 2012. My table is on the left in the picture below.

Work Safe, Corey
We enjoyed a very interesting evening with Harold Solberg last night. He presented a program on impregnating wood with a vacuum system. He talked about the properties of wood and why you would want to impregnate them, and then gave a demonstration of how it works. He passed around some wood that he had not impregnated with glue, some wood that had the glue impregnated and a project that he started turning without the glue impregnated and then what it was like after he impregnated it.

He began by talking about spalted wood; this is the wood he works with to do his turning. He had several VERY nice examples of projects he made with spalted wood. Spalted wood is wood that is dead and has begun the decaying process. In the beginning of the process the fungus makes a very pretty line going into the fibers of the wood. As the decaying progresses, the wood fibers lose their lignum (the natural glue that holds the fibers together) and begin to get very "punky." The punky areas are darker in color and add to the beauty of the wood when finished. However, the punky areas do not turn well. They tend to tear out and leave the project with an uneven surface.

Harold heard about someone who impregnated wood with glue and it made the punky areas firm and able to be turned. He decided to give it a try. He discovered in his research that the best glue to work with is iron clad glue. It is available in a hardware store. Ace hardware is one store in our area that has it. He mixes the glue with water; 3 parts water to 1 part glue. This mixture leaves the punky areas firm and the resulting wood can be turned, sanded and finished without any of the problems associated with glue. He reuses the mix over and over. He keeps it from getting rancid or from getting mold on the top by keeping it in an airtight container filled to the top. He used glue that was 2 years old last night in his demonstration and it worked just as well as it did the first time he used it.

Harold told us that you cannot just apply glue to the surface and expect that to work, because it does not get into the fibers of the wood. The only way to get the glue inside of the wood so that all the fibers in the wood are affected by the glue is with a vacuum system. The vacuum system consists of a tank that is attached to a motor that pulls air out of whatever is in the tank. When wood is in the tank immersed in his glue mixture, the motor pulls out the air in the tank and in the wood itself. When the vacuum is turned off the glue mixture is sucked into the wood where the air was pulled out. The wood then needs to air dry for 3 to 4 days before it is dry enough to use.

He also discovered that finding an appropriate vacuum container is not easy. He experimented with using a large enamel pot with a lid and fitting a vacuum nozzle to it. When he turned on the vacuum that takes the air out of the pot, it seemed to work fine. But not far into the process, the pot imploded and he had a pot that collapsed and left enamel pieces all over his basement. He also experimented with cutting off the top of a propane tank and adding a top he made out of ¾ inch plywood with a rubber seal affixed and the vacuum nozzle in the top. The vacuum that he used for the demonstration last night was a regular pressure cooker that he found at a garage sale. They are not easy to find. The one he found was one that was usually used for canning. All he had to do was remove the pressure nozzle and put in his vacuum nozzle and it was ready to use.

Harold demonstrated his system by putting glue in his pressure cooker. Then he placed a piece of wood in the glue mix, a heavy piece of iron on top, then another piece of wood and finally a last piece of iron on top of that. If he didn’t put the iron on top of the items they would float and the process would not work. Then he attached the air removal hose to the nozzle in the top of the pressure cooker and turned the vacuum on. The pressure gauge showed what the internal pressure was inside the pressure cooker. He let it run for 15 minutes and the pressure got down to 25.9 psi. He usually runs it for 20 minutes at home. After the pressure was released, he opened the pot and took out the pieces of iron and wood. They were pretty well covered with white glue. He put them on a bed of nails he made and let them set. It did not take long for the wood to look pretty normal. He said the glue that was on the wood when he took it out was being drawn into the wood. There were no drips of glue visible near the wood.

We thank Harold for his very interesting and informative program. We enjoyed looking at his bowl that he passed around. It was very beautiful and had a wonderful finish on it. He said he used velvet oil finish on his projects to get the smooth and durable finish.
TOYS. TOYS, TOYS

Group toy making continues every Monday at Woodcraft from 9 AM until 3 PM. Come and join the group for an entire day or part of a day. Call me with any questions at 262-271-5239.

Bill Godfrey, Toy Chair

WOODWORKING MACHINES WORKSHOP

A workshop covering general setup and maintenance for common woodworking machines has been scheduled for January 14, 2012. Dave Eubanks, owner of Independent Machine Service & Repair, LLC from Waukesha will lead the workshop. Dave has over 35 years experience in servicing and repairing many types of woodworking and metalworking machines. IMS&R is an authorized parts and service center for the Stanley Black & Decker group (Delta, DeWalt, etc.) and the Walter Meier group (Powermatic, Jet, Wilton) and services many other brands like General, Grizzly, Holz-Her, Burlington, Byrd Tool, Casadei, Oliver, Felder, Northfield, Omega, Saw Stop, State, and many more.

The machines to be covered are the table saw, band saw, drill press, jointer, planer, and time permitting, the lathe. You will be shown proper set-up and alignment for each machine along with routine maintenance. This is your opportunity to learn more about maintaining the machines you use every day.

The workshop fee is $25 and is limited to 15 people. It will be hosted at Bill Godfrey's shop at S53 W26445 Foxvale Court, Waukesha. We will start at 9 AM and continue until around 3 PM (bring your own lunch). Sign-up will be available at the October, November, and January monthly meetings.

Respectfully Submitted, Ed Cessna

Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild
Board Briefs September, 2011

Attendees: Corey Megal, John Johnson, Leila Crandall Frink, Jerry Kashmerick, and Jerry Strojny, Ed Cessna
Treasury Balance: $6225.94 as of September 6
Programs/Workshops: A Woodworking Machines Workshop has been scheduled for January 14, 2012. Attendees will learn the proper set-up and routine maintenance for the major woodworking machines. Workshop cost is $25.

Guild Logo: The new logo project will be tabled until mid 2012.

Holiday Dinner: Our holiday dinner will again be at Myers Restaurant and the cost will remain at $20 per person.

Respectfully Submitted, Ed Cessna
First (top), second (middle), and third (bottom) place challenge winning entries. Congrats on doing the work and winning the challenge.

This saw was one that was sharpened during the saw sharpening workshop. Brought in by Corey Megal.

Jay Pilling brought in a couple baby rattles he turned and his jig for doing the turning. He also brought chisels with handles he turned. Nice job Jay.
The glue mixture in the pot.

Three pictures (right) of items that Harold turned after impregnating with his glue mixture. All 3 are of spalted wood.

The glue residue on the pot after process is done.

The glue before it impregnates the wood. Notice the bed of nails under the wood.

The wood after the glue mixture has been absorbed. This wood is not the same piece as the one above.
Rockler Events in October

10/1/2011, 9:30 - 11:30 Bird Feeder Turning Class
10/8/2011, 9:30 - 11:30 Trim Router Table
10/15/2011, 9:30 - 11:30 Pen Turning with Rockler Carbide Turning Tools
10/22/2011, 9:30 - 11:30 Dust Right Vortex Demo
10/29/2011, 9:30 - 11:30 CNC Shark Demo

Woodcraft Class Schedule

GIFT TURNING DAY, Sun, Oct 09, 10:30 AM - 4 PM
The Atlantic Puffin, Tue, Oct 11, 6 PM - 9 PM
Wood Preparation Using The Planer, Jointer & Table, Sun, Oct 16, 5 PM - 9 PM
Halloween Scrollin Fun, Thu, Oct 20, 6 PM - 9 PM
ADVANCED ROUTER PART 1 HAND - HELD OPERATION, Wed, Oct 26, 5 PM - 9 PM
Turning 101: Intro To Lathe Work, Sat, Oct 29, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Make a Stackable Wine Rack, Sun, Oct 30, 10:30 AM - 4 PM

Raffle & Door Prizes
The September raffle and door prize winners were:
Lenard Mumm won the raffle, the Milwaukee sander.
Craig Baltz, George Henderson, Jim Fenske, Justin Gasal, and Mark Enderle were the lucky door prize winners. Congratulations to all!!
WWG Programs and Workshops

Start thinking “out of the box” this month. October should be great inspirational material for gift ideas. Yes it’s that time already.

October Program – ” Wooden Boxes”
- **Thursday October 6th**  Bob Dickey has been fascinated by wood for many years. His presentation will be focused on designing and building wooden boxes.

  Most of his early working with wood was as a do-it-yourselfer, making furniture, cabinets or whatever else was needed around the house. However, for the past eleven years, he has concentrated on designing and building wooden boxes. A box is the ideal vehicle for combining functionality with the elegance and beauty of wood.

  When building a box, he starts with the wood itself. He looks for unique or interesting color, texture or grain pattern. He often prefers compatible but contrasting woods that, in combination, create a striking or sometimes subtle visual affect. Once he has selected the wood, he begins to think of the box that will best utilize and highlight it. Size and shape are adjusted to fit the wood. As a result, even the same or similar design becomes a unique, one-of-a-kind box when completed.

  Recently, with the thought of cutting back on the rigors of the outdoor art fair life, Bob opened a small gallery in order to showcase and sell his work. The Wood’n it be Nice Gallery of Fine Craft is located in Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

October Workshop – “Small Woven Ornaments”
- **Saturday October 15th**  Our very own Leila Crandall-Frink will be offering a class on how to make some small woven ornaments. They can be made from basket weaving reed or from wood veneer. Both materials will be on hand for you to experiment with. We have patterns for hearts and stars. Come out to Jerry Tackes place for this one of a kind workshop.

November Program –” Rose Engine Demonstration”
- **Thursday November 3rd**  Our very own Jerry Tackes will be presenting this month on the unique machine he was part of building. Rose Engines have been around since the 18th century.

  A rose engine lathe is a specialized kind of geometric lathe. The headstock rocks back and forth with a rocking motion or along the spindle axis in a pumping motion, controlled by a rubber moving against a rosette or cam-like pattern mounted on the spindle, while the lathe spindle rotates. Rose engine work can make flower patterns, as well as convoluted, symmetrical, multi-lobed organic patterns. The patterns it produces are similar to that of a Spirograph, in metal. No other ornamental lathe can produce these “rose” patterns. (Taken from Wikipedia)

    Jerry (and a group of others) has spent months working on building their version of a Rose Engine. We will hear some stories from the build and then a demonstration of what it can do.

November Workshop
- No workshop this month.

December Program –”Holiday Dinner”
- **Thursday December 1st**  Sit down and relax. Let’s have dinner together. A great time to review the past year and look forward to the coming one.

December Workshop
- No workshop this month.

Contact information for WWG Workshops
John Johnson  
9409 Nicholas Lane  
Spring Grove, IL  60081-8286  
815/575-9266  
Email: jcjkyj@gmail.com
Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

Notice:
Enclosed with this newsletter are the forms for renewal of your membership and for registering for the Holiday party. We request that you fill out and return the forms as soon as possible. Thank you.

WWG Monthly Meeting
Thursday, October 6th
6:30 PM
at Woodcraft
(lower level meeting room)
14115 W. Greenfield Ave.
New Berlin, WI 53151

Wooden Boxes
Presenter: Bob Dickey
His presentation will be focused on designing and building wooden boxes.

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